TheHighlander

Thursday July 17 2025 | Issue 698

INSIDE: HHHS APPOINTS INTERIM CEO PAGE 5 FREE

Jim Blake Day

The Haliburton County Development Corporation bid farewell to Jim Blake as its long-time consultant July 9. See more on page 10. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Minden scores health care expansion

By Mike Baker

Stephanie MacLaren, lead of the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team (KLH OHT) called a $3.4 million provincial investment to expand access to primary care and develop new programming in the region "one of the biggest local healthcare stories in decades."

MPP Laurie Scott was in Coboconk July 15 for the announcement, which will see new interprofessional health teams developed in Minden, Coboconk and Woodville. The money is part of a $2.1 billion investment to connect 300,000 Ontarians to primary care this year, and around two million by 2030.

The politician said there are 6,902 people in Haliburton County and Kawartha Lakes without a registered family doctor – the highest of any applicant in this funding stream. Scott credited Marina Hodson, executive director of the Kawartha North Family Health Team (KNFHT), for advocating for the money.

"In the weeks and months ahead, Marina and her team will establish a process to accept new patients and will communicate [how to apply] to the community," Scott said, noting anyone without a family doctor will be paired with a physician, a nurse practitioner, or primary care team.

Hodson said the portion of the money benefitting the Highlands, unknown at this time, will be used to hire new staff and develop new services seperate from the Minden Urgent Care Clinic.

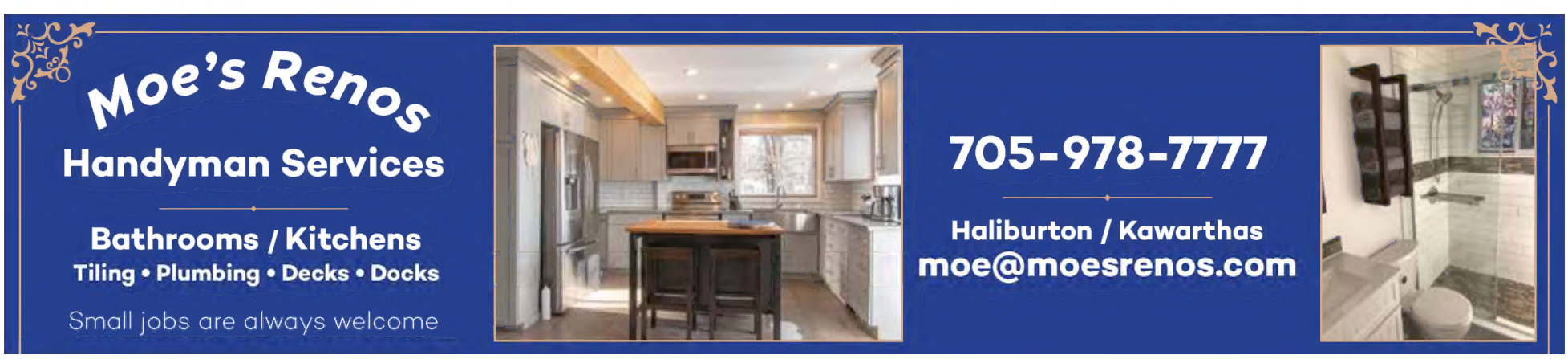
"This will significantly expand and strengthen access to comprehensive primary care. There is always somewhere people can go [such as after-hours clinics and the ER], but that's not the relationship we want to establish. There needs to be an actual foundation for people," Hodson said.

She recognized MacLaren and KLH OHT partners for their contributions to KNFHT's application – including Haliburton Highlands Health Services, Haliburton FHT, Kawartha Lakes FHT, Ross Memorial Hospital and Community Care CKL.

"I'm really excited to work together and figure out how to share these resources, spread them across all our communities to really increase access. That's what this is all about," Hodson said.

Following up with *The Highlander*, Hodson noted the money is

Continued **'More'** on page 2



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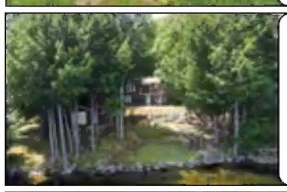

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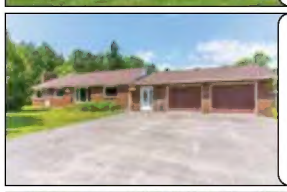

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

KNFHT's Marina Hodson says the $3.4 million provincial grant will expand interprofessional primary health care teams across Haliburton County and Kawartha Lakes.

More details expected mid-August

Continued from page 1

about more than adding new doctors and nurse practitioners, it will also be used to hire ancillary health care providers. A media release from the MPP's office says physiotherapists, social workers and pharmacists will form part of the new catchment.

Hodson hopes to have a better idea of how much money Minden will be getting, and what will be done with it, by mid-August.

MacLaren noted the number of County residents onboarded this year will depend on how successful KNFHT is with recruiting. "That's going to drive our numbers significantly."

She hopes that, by adding more primary care professionals, other healthcare specialists will be attracted to the County "for one-off monthly clinic days," referencing how HHHS was able to launch new internal medicine and women's health clinics at the Minden Health Hub recently.

"The more volume there is in terms of patients, the better for everyone, potentially," MacLaren said, noting part of the deal is to expand hours of care in Minden for things like after-hours clinics. "We'll see what that looks like."

Additional funds needed

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter was at Tuesday's announcement, saying it's a big deal for the people of Haliburton County.

"The median age of people… in Haliburton County is close to 60. The need and the amount of healthcare required by people in that group tends to be much greater than it is for a younger population," Carter said. "Anything we can get is beneficial – we have a dire need for doctors, nurses and all other allied health professionals."

He's "cautiously optimistic" KNFHT and other partners will be able to find staff to fill much-needed positions.

"I've been told that if there are full-time jobs created, as opposed to shifts one day a week, that people will be interested. Having more dieticians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists locally would be very helpful," the mayor said.

"We're fortunate that we have a facility in Minden, so they can rearrange how certain things are done and bring people in [seamlessly].

"Anything that can take the strain off the hospital, our doctors and nurses just helps everybody… so this is a positive, absolutely," Carter said.

MPP Laurie Scott and representatives from KNFHT, Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County and KLH OHT were at Tuesday's $3.4 million funding announcement in Coboconk. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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Hook, line and parking

By Mike Baker

The owners of Haliburton restaurant Hook Line & Sinker are one step closer to making their dreams of creating a second-floor patio overlooking Head Lake a reality.

A long-running disagreement with Dysart et al township over the number of new parking spaces required to facilitate an expansion was settled at a June 24 council meeting. Township planner Jeff Iles told council the owners, Taylor Pridham and Veronica Van Leeuwen, had changed their plans – adapting their application to turn the patio into a cocktail bar, rather than an extension to the restaurant.

In early 2024, the pair sought township approval to add 30 seats via an upstairs patio. The eatery currently seats 100 people inside and 40 on an existing first-floor patio during the warm-weather months.

The project was held up over parking requirements – the property has 15 spots for vehicles on-site, at the rear of the building, with another 27 across the road in the municipally-owned Head Lake Park parking lot. Iles said the restaurant needed to acquire another 23 parking spots to meet the township's regulations.

Another option was to pay the municipality $46,000, at $2,000 per spot, in lieu of parking, money that Iles said could be used to create new parking elsewhere in the downtown.

At last month's meeting, Iles said by re-designating the expansion as a licensed liquor establishment (LLE), the owners would only require nine additional spots, totalling $18,000.

"In the zoning bylaw, the requirements for an LLE are lower than those required for a restaurant," which is one parking space for each nine sq. metres of a site's gross floor area, or one per every four possible patrons – whichever is greater (the restaurant boasts 407 sq. metres, with the patio expansion around 160 sq. metres). LLEs require only one spot for every four people that can be legally accommodated at one time.

After Iles recommended that council approve the updated request, mayor Murray Fearrey asked how LLEs are defined. Iles said they are a building or premises other than a sit-down, drive-thru or takeout restaurant licensed through the Liquor Licence Act, which drew some confusion.

"Is this not a restaurant?" Fearrey retorted, with Iles saying the cocktail lounge will act as a separate space and won't serve food from the restaurant's menu. He did note, though, that any establishment serving liquor must have food available, per the Liquor Licence Act.

"The primary intent of that portion of the building will be an LLE, as opposed to a restaurant," Iles said.

"I think they're smarter than we are," Fearrey replied.

After deputy mayor Walt McKechnie asked if the addition would necessitate any other improvements, such as to washroom capacity, Iles said likely yes, but those would be addressed through a separate application to the township's building department.

A parking dispute between Dysart et al and Hook Line & Sinker has been resolved, potentially paving the way for a new second-floor patio. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

McKechnie said he felt uneasy about the change in approach.

"I understand what they want to do, and it'll be great… but I can't get my head around designating that as an alcohol-only space… when you're serving alcohol, you're serving food," the deputy mayor said. "It just doesn't fit with my vision of what's going to happen."

Coun. Pat Casey, who had long advocated for council finding a solution, was pleased to see the issue put to bed, saying he wants the township to do what it can to support business. He felt the downtown area was a better place because of restaurants like Hook, Line & Sinker, the recently-opened Juna, and other establishments.

"It's a good atmosphere now. We're building some good character in town. We need [restaurants] because of the amount of people moving here, and coming and going," Casey said.

Fearrey acknowledged there wasn't much the township could do, though hoped there would be routine inspections to ensure the patio, if approved, isn't being misused.

McKechnie said he feels parking is becoming a real problem in the downtown and that additions like this are only going to exacerbate the problem.

"I've got nothing against restaurants coming to town, we've got some great ones, but I think parking is such a big thing, we have a big need," he said. "We're going to have to spend some money here to create some parking soon."

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Highlander news

DYSART ET AL NEWS

Pride in the flag

Dysart et al council has agreed to host a flag raising ceremony at A.J. LaRue Arena next month as part of Pride in the Highlands' 'Pride Week' festivities.

At a June 24 meeting, Chris Hewson, Pride in the Highlands co-chair, advocated for an official ceremony in Haliburton to coincide with the annual flag raising held in Minden since 2016.

"A ceremony like this and raising of the flag in the community fosters a greater sense of pride and belonging for all residents, particularly those in the [LGBTQ+] community," Hewson said. "It also sends a powerful message of affirmation to the [LGBTQ+] youth, letting them know they are seen, supported and safe in their hometown."

Hewson asked that council establish a framework for future flag raising ceremonies, wanting to make it an annual event. He encouraged elected officials to attend the ceremony and proposed speeches, noting that Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter often speaks at flag raisings in his community.

Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts said she "fully supported" the idea and would be happy to attend and participate.

Clerk Mallory Bishop suggested Dysart amend the flag raising bylaw it introduced last year to automatically allow groups with pre-approved community flags to host official ceremonies, providing they work with staff on logistics. Council approved the change.

The Pride ceremony will take place Aug. 18 at 4 p.m.

History of Haliburton

The township will chip in $5,000 to help pay for new historical display panels at Skyline Park, as part of the Rotary Club of Haliburton's ongoing renovation of the site.

Charles Wheeler, chairing the restoration project on behalf of Rotary, said the panels will feature five topics – a history of Haliburton village, a map of things to do in Haliburton, a history of Skyline Park, an Indigenous land acknowledgement, and

Pride in the Highlands co-chair Chris Hewson said 'a flag raising ceremony would create a sense of belonging in Dysart. *File.*

map of the entire township. He proposed working with Dysart's cultural resources committee on content.

The total cost of the panels is estimated at $15,000, with Rotary and the County also chipping in $5,000 each. They will be installed next spring.

A multi-year $200,000 commitment from Rotary, the makeover also includes new covered picnic shelters, year-round accessible washrooms, an expanded viewing platform, including a new upper viewing area, and removal of trees/debris. It's expected to wrap by 2027.

Fire service co-operation

Council officially ratified an expanded mutual aid agreement for the township's fire department, enabling an immediate response to big blazes in Algonquin Highlands, Minden Hills and Highlands East.

Dan Chumbley, who heads up the Dysart department, told *The Highlander* in January that loose agreements had been in place for several years, but the new system means there will be an immediate two-department response to certain calls, such as significant structure and wildland fires, and specialized rescues.

Storm-ing the lot

Local minor hockey group Highland Storm was given the go-ahead to run a community fundraiser in the A.J LaRue parking lot Sept. 6.

Planned activities include a barbecue, equipment exchange, hockey puck shooting skill drills, a dunk tank and more.

Roadside cutting

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie asked staff to look into hiring an outside firm to trim grass on the shoulder of municipal roads, with the request supported by the rest of council.

McKechnie believes it's a safety concern leaving weeds to grow uncontrolled, particularly on winding roads and key intersections. He suggested cutting six-to-eight feet into the shoulder.

Public works director Rob Camelon said roadside mowing was removed from municipal operations several years ago but noted it's not an expensive service. He said staff could put out an RFP and, potentially, be cutting this month. He warned, however, that it may not be a popular decision with some locals.

"We will be taking phone calls about cutting down the milkweed adjacent to the road," Camelon said, though coun. Pat Casey retorted he felt driver safety should take precedence. Council opted to proceed with the work as soon as possible.

Photo finish

McKechnie and Wood-Roberts volunteered to work alongside Camelon on a new policy outlining rules for placing speed display signs on Dysart's roads.

In May, council directed Camelon to find out how much it would cost to purchase the signs, which are used to deter speeding. He said solar-powered signs cost around $6,000 each.

Council has heard numerous requests this year, notably from residents along Wigamog Road, to install signs and designate part of the road as a community safety zone. He warned council against approving signs based on complaints, instead suggesting establishing a formal policy.

Wood-Roberts said she was "much more" interested in pursuing photo radar signs, which automatically clocks speeders' licence plates and issues tickets in the mail. Camelon said there are changes coming to the Highway Traffic Act addressing that technology, as well as rules around Community Safety Zones, so advised against making an immediate decision.

McKechnie asked about community groups, such as those focused on safety or lake associations, purchasing and erecting their own signs. Camelon said council could consider that on a case-by-case basis, by issuing a licence of occupation to place the signs on municipal property. Any maintenance or replacement would be the applicant's responsibility, he noted.

Fearrey defers powers

Following in the footsteps of Minden Hills counterpart Bob Carter, Dysart mayor Murray Fearrey outlined his intent to defer most of the Strong Mayor Powers he recently inherited to CAO Tamara Wilbee and the rest of council.

Powers were extended to council heads of 216 municipalities across Ontario on May 1 to help streamline new housing and infrastructure development, with the province aiming to build 1.5 million new residential units by 2032.

Fearrey has delegated power to hire and dismiss the township's CEO and establish or dissolve municipal committees back to council; while giving Wilbee discretion to hire and dismiss department heads and reorganize municipal staff. Fearrey also signed an agreement saying he will not exercise his power to veto any bylaw he believes opposes provincial policy and will work with staff on annual budget proposals.

A new vacancy policy was established should a mayor be unable to carry out their duties on council, requiring a by-election if a vacancy occurs before March 31 of an election year. Should a vacancy occur after, council will appoint a mayor to step in, though that individual will not possess Strong Mayor Powers. The municipality will not be required to fill the position should it become vacant within 90 days of an election day. *(Dysart et al briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- July 31- Regular Council Meeting
- August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

WHEN IS AN ENTRANCE PERMIT REQUIRED?

If you alter an existing driveway in any way (for example: paving or widening), you must apply for an entrance permit. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/entranceandwideloadpermits/ for more information.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery for the opening reception of Of Light and Life, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, on Saturday, July 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Artist talk will start at 1:30 pm. Michael will also be signing copies of his recently published book Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas. His book will be available for sale in the Gallery. The exhibit will be on display until September 13.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open for the season! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am, Tuesday to Saturday. Coming up this week: Thursday – Heritage laundry workshop, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone, Saturday – Heritage croquet game. For a complete list of programs, visit our website.
- The Unfinished Objects Craft Group (UFOs) will be meeting at the MHCC on Friday, July 18 from 1 – 3 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for our next HHW day taking place Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

GET READY FOR THE ICE!

The ice at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be back in and ready for Monday July 21st, 2025. All ice drop-in programs will resume at that time. Get the schedule online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or at the administrative desk at the arena.

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Highlander news

Jennifer Burns West (inset) will serve as interim leader at HHHS, effective Sept. 6. *Submitted.*

HHHS appoints interim CEO

By Mike Baker

Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) has announced its chief nursing executive, Jennifer Burns West, will serve as interim president and CEO when current leader, Veronica Nelson, leaves her position in September.

Board chair Irene Odell announced the news in a July 11 media release, calling Burns West "a trusted and visionary leader who brings tremendous experience, energy and compassion to everything" she does.

Also serving as vice president of clinical and community support services since her arrival in 2023, Burns West will assume the role Sept. 6.

Last month, HHHS announced Nelson, who joined on an interim basis in June 2023 before becoming a permanent staple that December, is leaving to rejoin Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital.

The interim position was filled according to a succession plan the HHHS board of directors approved in September 2024, with Burns West first in line. Odell said Burns West made a "remarkable difference" after joining the organization almost two years ago.

"Jennifer has led key initiatives such as Trillium Gift of Life, HHHS' transition of mental health services to the Minden Health Hub, collaborating with [Haliburton] EMS to roll out the Fit to Serve program, the creation of the women's clinic and so much more," HHHS communications lead, Lauren Ernst, said in an email.

She also oversaw the transition of Ontario Telemedicine Network, Diabetes Education Network, and Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) to Epic – the regional electronic medical record used throughout hospitals in central east Ontario.

"Patients and clients now have access to their information through [a] patient portal," Ernst noted.

"In addition, Jennifer led the expansion of palliative care for unattached patients (those without a primary care provider) as well as the implementation of the incident management system and electronic platform that captures patient, client and resident satisfaction, enabling our teams to leverage valuable data and improve care and service experiences," she added.

With an interim leader announced, Ernst confirmed the board will conduct an extensive search for Nelson's permanent replacement. A recruitment firm will be brought in to assist. Burns West will remain in the interim role until the hiring process wraps, though no timeline was provided.

Odell stated Burns West "brings forward thinking continuity to this position… her strong relationships across the organization, deep understanding of operations and unwavering commitment to high-quality care mean that our priorities remain clear, and our momentum continues."

Asked how her hiring on an interim basis could impact HHHS' master planning process and application to expand Hyland Crest Long-term Care home in Minden, HHHS said those journeys "will continue to evolve."

Burns West will begin transitioning to her new role in August, with announcements regarding further interim positions expected in the coming weeks.

Dorset Tower closed for renovations

By Mike Baker

The Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower, one of the Highlands' primary tourist attractions, will be closed for three weeks over the summer holidays.

The structure, which opened in 1967, is undergoing a $225,000 makeover with Algonquin Highlands' parks, recreation and trails manager, Chris Card, saying a new lightning strike protection system is being installed. The project also includes enhancements to an existing cantilevered beam connection, improving stability.

It closed to the public July 16 and is expected to reopen Aug. 8.

The township sought bids on the project last year, with one proposal coming in over budget. The work was re-tendered and approved in early spring.

Card said the timing of the closure couldn't be helped, with the project discussed during council budget deliberations in February and contractors needing to visit the site before work could proceed.

Last year, during the three weeks the tower will be closed, 1,213 cars visited the site, Card said. Approximately 10,500 vehicles visit the tower annually, with fall typically the busiest period.

"The timing… ensured the work would be completed prior to the peak fall colours season, which is by far the busiest time of year," he said.

The tower also houses communications equipment that supports emergency services, as well as cell phone and internet providers, with the project also helping to protect those systems.

Card noted the tower park, gift shop and peek-a-boo rock will remain open, with admission fees discounted 50 per cent while work is underway.

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

July 17 - 22 Salt-Water Moon - Theatre - Highlands Summer Festival

July 19 New to You - Community Yard Sale - Shopping - Hosted at A.J. LaRue Arena

July 19 Gigantic Penny Raffle & Spaghetti Dinner - Fundraiser - by the Wilberforce FunRaising Group

July 19 Tribute to Great Big Sea - Live Entertainment – Hosted at Abbey Gardens

July 19 Bloomfest - Event - Hosted at Little Bloom Co

July 25 Comedy Night - PRIDE in the Highlands - Sir Sam's Ski/Bike

July 25 -27 Haliburton Art and Craft Festival - Event - Hosted by Rails End Gallery & Art Centre

July 26 Abbamania & Disco Party - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Kennisis Lake Marina

July 26 Dinner & Comedy Night - Hosted at Sir Sam's Inn

July 26 Ian Reid - Live Entertainment - Hosted at the Dominion Hotel

July 29 Richard Margison Masterclass - Live Entertainment - Hosted by Highlands Opera Studio

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

Highlander news

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

MH to fix development process

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council, at its June 26 meeting, gave CAO Cynthia Fletcher the go-ahead to put out a tender - in hopes of hiring an outside firm to have a look at the municipality's development application process.

"We've had numerous discussions throughout my time here about the need to streamline and modernize Minden Hills' development application process," Fletcher told councillors.

She added they had worked "very hard" internally with staff and had made some strides, "but we would very much benefit from a third-party comprehensive review."

Fletcher said she had done this at two other municipalities. "And it was of great benefit to have somebody, third party, fresh eyes, understands best business practices, to look at, and to review. It would involve input from all of our stakeholders. What it gives us in the end is tangible actions based on industry best practices, and better yet, a road map for implementing change."

In a written report, she estimated it would cost $60,000 to $70,000 but would not know the final price until the project is bid on. She suggested the money come from the administration reserve, which has a current balance of just over $295,000. She said she would bring the final cost to council.

She stressed the review would, "look at every touch point throughout our development application process. I've found this to be a very valuable process to go through, a very valuable document that has allowed me to improve things in other municipalities."

Mayor Bob Carter asked if there would be runway "to also look at situations of doing nothing, or reducing services, and what would be the impact if we had less resources going towards it?"

Fletcher said that was precisely why a "fresh set of eyes" was needed, including "bringing us what other municipalities are doing. There may be options for council to consider, including service or service levels."

CAO Cynthia Fletcher. *Submitted.*

Coun. Tammy McKelvey expressed concern about spending the money, noting they did not know last year's surplus number, would have a loan payment for work on Scotch Line and Bobcaygeon roads, are hiring a part-timer to help with short-term rentals, and just found out they were unsuccessful in getting a grant to fix the curling club roof.

However, Fletcher said she viewed it as a one-time cost. She said council did not have to endorse her idea but cautioned the township would not "make significant strides with business as usual and reviewing our development application process from end-to-end. We don't have the internal horsepower to do that."

She added, "I've been asked repeatedly since I've been here 'fix it' and I have a way we can potentially fix it, but I need help and support."

Council approved her request.

Mayor addresses 'red tape'

Addressing recent criticism over too much "red tape" at the township, Carter said on July 14, Minden Hills is working to review its procedures and requirements to ensure bureaucracy is eliminated and the process streamlined.

"This is a complex task as there are many policies (local and provincial) that influence development requirements," he said.

In the last year or so, Minden Hills has implemented Cloudpermit Software to modernize application and review processes. Carter added staff have been consolidating the official plan and zoning bylaw documents and schedules to make referencing easier for applicants and staff. He also touched on the development application process review.

"Even with all this change, the township, so far in 2025, has issued more than 120 building permits and is processing more than 110 development applications," Carter said.

He noted the planning and building permit application process can be daunting for small businesses and homeowners, and "the volume of applications (especially leading into the summer months) overwhelms our resources, and that is another area we are trying to address.

"Minden Hills is open for business and is willing to work with anybody to help in their success. We continue to improve our capabilities and our quality as we grow. "

MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Speaker series

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is offering two community heritage speaker series events this summer.

The Art of Printing and Stories from the *Minden Times* will be held July 24 at 5 p.m.

"A double feature: Natalia Brown shares her passion for letterpress printing, followed by Jack Brezina's reflections on his time managing the *Minden Times* newspaper," the township said.

Meanwhile, "Dominion Hotel at 160: Histories and Mysteries" will be Aug. 7 at 5 p.m.

"Innkeeper Shawn Chamberlin marks the 160th anniversary of the Dominion Hotel with rich stories from its past — featuring a few reported paranormal experiences," the township said.

Admission is by donation. No pre-registration is required. The Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., and is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit the Cultural Centre's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mindenculturalcentre

MH on Insta

The Township of Minden Hills has announced that it now has an official Instagram account - @Township_MindenHills.

Deputy clerk Lisa Fitton said it was part of their ongoing efforts to enhance communication and engagement with residents.

"The township's Instagram account will serve as a valuable tool for: sharing visual updates; highlighting local events, projects, and community activities through photos and videos; providing real-time information, such as sharing announcements, alerts, and important updates as they happen."

She added it will "promote community spirit by showcasing the unique character and vibrancy of our community."

The township office. *File.*

She added while the platform will be used to share information, it is not intended for official complaints or urgent matters. Residents are encouraged to visit the Township website at www.mindenhills.ca for news and updates. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

...JOIN THEM AT thehighlander.ca

County on service delivery review trip

By Lisa Gervais

County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke is on a travelling road show of the townships, trying to sell them on phase two of the services delivery review.

Dyke was at Highlands East council July 15.

"Basically, we're looking at doing a systematic analysis of what the services are provided at both the County and local level, an evaluation of efficiency, effectively, and responsiveness to community needs, but also the needs of both municipal organizations," he said.

He added, "a lot of the demands being put on local municipalities now, for even-non jurisdictional items, with respect to what we have to allocate with limited resources; we have to make sure we have the best processes around at our disposal to make sure that is being done in the best way possible and get best value for dollar."

He stressed it's not solely a cost-cutting exercise, or a first step toward amalgamation.

The County began the review of 66 services it, and member townships, provide, in 2022. That review found 12 high priority services that could be targeted for efficiencies. Six of them (solid waste management, fire services, economic development, bylaw enforcement, procurement and IT/digital strategy) were addressed in 2022-23.

Dyke said the ones that were implemented were successful and resulted in increased productivity and more efficient service delivery. Some were not, however, such as councillors rebuking the idea of centralizing solid waste management. The CAO talked about some of the challenges that have bogged the review down, including significant staff changes, an "ambitious" scope of work, and no formal service level agreements between the County and townships in the event of disagreements.

Highlands East deputy mayor Cec Ryall is open to phase two of a services delivery review. *File.*

He added that for councils and the public, an agreement "clearly defines the accountability levels on the service delivery itself; how do we score ourselves? how do we report out to councils with respect to success, failure, indifference in what we're doing? and how it's impacting the ultimate clients, which are the ratepayers."

Dyke said phase two has identified engineering, communications, human resources, and planning.

As an example, he said the County provides less engineering support to townships than a lot of their Eastern Ontario counterparts.

"If we do look at modifying how the engineering service is delivered, there's the potential to increase service levels - that will greatly benefit the local municipalities."

He said in the last two years, Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East and Minden Hills had spent a combined $800,000 to $900,000 hiring engineering consultants. "It's worth looking at 'is there a better way for us to provide that service at both levels" by having an in-house engineer or engineering technician?

Dyke added the service delivery review is not static, but open to further analysis as time goes on. He added for efficiency, prior to filling positions, there could be a thorough evaluation to determine the relevancy and value of each role to the organization's strategic goals.

The next detailed review and analysis would be done by County and township staff, led by CAOs. Final reports on recommended options would be provided to councils by the end of November, in time for the 2026 budget cycle. The ultimate decisions are up to local councils.

Deputy mayor Cec Ryall commented there may be some direct cost savings, but that is not the focus of why they are doing it. He added when it comes to "better bang for the buck, if we do this right, and we get our ducks in a row … and iron out the duplication, we should be able to get a good opportunity to avoid costs down the road."

For example, "if we're spending money on consulting fees, we may find that we now have a need for some kind of a staff function that would make that more cost effective, providing work at a lesser dollar."

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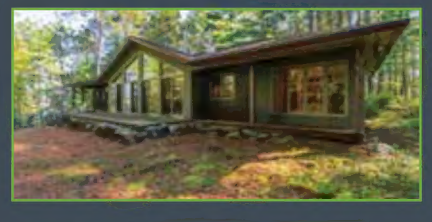

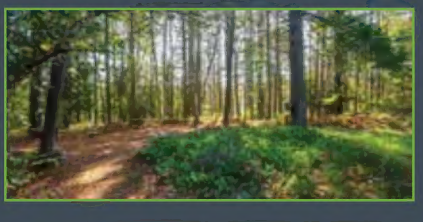

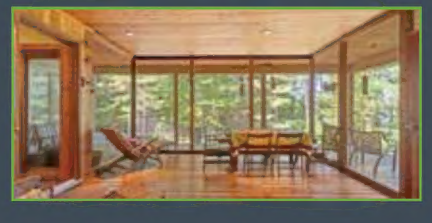

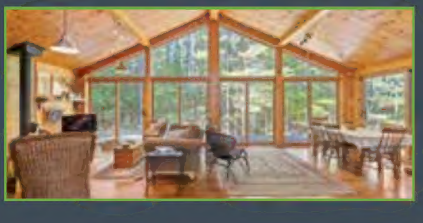

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Responsible journalism

By Lisa Gervais

You might be wondering why *The Highlander* has yet to write about the Lounge closure in Minden.

When we found out about it early last week, there wasn't time to fact-check all of the things the owner and his partner were saying on social media.

In our line of work, we cannot take social media posts as fact, and it would have been irresponsible to run a one-sided story.

As of press time this week, we still hadn't finished due diligence on this story.

There were a lot of allegations made.

The first was the financial stress of ongoing litigation with Algonquin Highlands, the County of Haliburton and some residents. The Lounge's owners used words such as "hostility, discrimination, and targeted harassment."

It appears the owners have been embroiled in legal battles since shortly after one of them moved to the Highlands in 2022. A lot of it centres on their development of the township-owned shoreline in front of their property. They claim they are being singled out.

The owners have filed an Ontario Human Rights Tribunal case. *The Highlander* has requested a copy from the province but it has not arrived as of press time.

Because nothing has been settled in the courts, and neither the township nor County will comment due to ongoing litigation, we are left with a one-sided story. We'll be more than happy to write about these cases once they are settled, or when solid evidence emerges.

The Lounge owners also complained about Minden Hills, saying red tape prevented them from getting their patio up and running for the busy summer season.

While not commenting on this particular business, Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter did address generalized complaints about red tape in the town impacting business – much of the talk coming in the wake of Lounge's posts. Carter told us this week, "Minden Hills is open for business and is willing to work with anybody to help in their success. We continue to improve our capabilities and our quality as we grow."

Also concerning, the owners said they faced homophobia, claiming someone defaced their chalkboard with slurs such as "HIV in food" and "faggots." They said false and defamatory reviews were posted online; harassing and threatening phone calls and messages received. We asked for proof and one exchange with the word "fags" was presented. They did say they had contacted OPP and so we reached out to the police, too. OPP said they investigated an incident, cautioned a suspect, but no charges were laid. We need to do a Freedom of Information request to get the incident report.

The owners said the closure had nothing to do with revenue. So we asked about expenses. We were told there were $340,000 in legal costs. We asked for proof. Some statements were sent to us but this did not add up to $340,000. We were also told rent was $3,000-a-month and they spent $100,000 on renovations. We asked for invoices. We had not received any as of press time.

As for staffing claims, former employees took to social media to complain about management. Management countered the claims are false. Again, he said/she said.

When we looked more carefully at this story, it's no longer black and white. There are indeed two, and more, sides to it all. Many people saying many things, but saying something doesn't make it true. We need facts before, for example, accusing a municipality of discrimination.

Newspapers, as publishers, are responsible about what they print; if they get it wrong, they are accountable and can be sued. Social media owners basically say they are just a platform through which people post, not responsible for what is posted.

So, where do you get your "facts" from? Social media? We'd naturally argue you should get it from newspapers, or other reputable news sources.

There is a critical difference. Editorial best practice is what adds value, what helps bring out truth. You trust us because we've checked our stories before they go in the paper. There are no late-night posts from *The Highlander* with unverified information.

Lounge taking to social media is representative of what is happening the world over. While no one wants to see a business close and an owner experience something as egregious as homophobia, there is more here than what you see on Instagram.

If and when we find it, you will read about it in *The Highlander*, and can have confidence it has been professionally verified.

And that's why there's been no story about Lounge in our paper.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

It takes a community

By Peter Ferri

Getting back to some normalcy has been a long time coming, as I've had challenges this past winter, and not just with the weather.

In January, I had my right ankle replaced. Yes, they do that now. It was an amazing process with a recovery that seemed slow. In my case, it started with three weeks with a lot of time off my feet, no weight on my right foot, and crutches.

Things were going fine until my partner and caregiver, Laurence, fell down some stairs, requiring major surgery on both knees, losing his mobility for several months. He is still in braces on both legs and will be a few more months before he can regain his natural gate.

This all being said, I went from the patient to the caregiver at warp speed.

There can be a lot said for our healthcare system in Ontario, and certainly the level of doctor care and skill are right up there. Bravo to the skills of our medical teams.

Finding myself as the caregiver on crutches is another matter. Laurence returned home after major double knee surgery in two full leg casts without the capacity to bend either. We were quite the sight at our local occupational therapist, whose comment gave a little levity, "Ok, I see, two people, one leg." And that's about where it started and finished.

Home care in the Highlands continues to be a major issue to the point of critical crisis.

A couple of years back, I was a caregiver for my mother. The resources are so limited they practically don't exist; alone without support from our Ontario Health atHome, home and community care system. The only answers and support we were constantly getting was "you may need to access private help.

Whether it be PSWs, physio, or anything else required, Haliburton County has very limited home services. It hasn't changed and it needs to.

Our saving graces came in the form of incredible friends and neighbours; whose outreach was everything; from snow blowing to garbage collection, shopping, cooking, driving, and socializing,

Our community, that we have contributed to and participated in, took up the slack/gap missing in our OH atHome care and went beyond wonderful. I am thanking you, each and every one of you, publicly.

We pay a lot of money for our health system. When our public health care workers are advising us to access "private care" and offering webpages because we are so limited in resources and infrastructure, it's a major issue.

Shame on the Ontario Government for its lack of caring, and the draining of our public systems. We have a lot of work to do to maintain it and build it. Have a voice.

At the same time, the message that I can express from this experience is, build your community, participate in your local community, support and acknowledge your neighbours and friends.

We cannot live and thrive in isolation. We cannot heal in isolation. We need each other. Be kind, be respectful, and be yourself. Be involved. And, thank you.

Peter Ferri is with Aging Together as Community

Editorial opinion

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

A very rare occurrence in Haliburton...deer! by Laurie Johnson.

Evening Grosbeak by Yvonne Friend.

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

From Haileybury to Haliburton

By Susan Tromanhauser

After 90 years, Reina Barrette's wish is to come full circle and return to her birth town of Haileybury in Northern Ontario.

Born in 1935, Barrette suffered many setbacks as a youngster. At the age of seven, she lost both parents within six months of each other. As one of 10 children, her older siblings raised her and by the time she was 12 she relocated to the Port Perry/Whitby area. Early in Grade 7 she left school due to headaches. Being cross-eyed led to more than 20 eye surgeries and permanent blindness in her right eye. By 16, she had her own apartment, leaving childhood behind. Married at 19, she had six children before relocating to Haliburton in 1973.

The impetus for the Haliburton move was the purchase of Summerland Lodge. While the couple did not continue operating the lodge, Barrette rented out cabins weekly and her husband also ran a Haliburton Lake marina. Her children loved Summerland, enjoying swimming and lake activity as well as the cows and horses they raised. In spite of the daily chores, Barrette enjoyed the quiet house at the lodge.

In 1984, after a 30-year tumultuous marriage, Barrette left her husband and with her childrens' help as well as a small pension and government assistance, purchased a small home on Sunnyside in Haliburton, she eventually sold her house and moved to apartment life, living in Echo Hills for 23 years. She finally moved into a retirement home, The Gardens of Haliburton. Finances may only allow one more year at The Gardens, so Barrette is looking for more affordable housing, but is having difficulty finding something appropriate. At The Gardens, she enjoys doing her jigsaw puzzles but misses her own kitchen and her own garden.

What Barrette really misses is Haileybury. She reminisces about her first house with immense gardens and chickens, cows and pigs. French was her first language but her "tongue can no longer twist around" those Francophone words. She has fond memories of fishing with her siblings and selling their catch to restaurants and the local hotel. Barrette misses French-style cooking but still knows how to make lemon meringue pie just by closing her eyes and picturing the image of her sister baking in the kitchen.

Barrette also recalls her firefighter father telling the story of saving a neighbour trying to carry a large suitcase out of a burning building. He shouted, 'I'm saving lives today not suitcases.' Her father was credited with rescuing the lives of half of the town and his heroism was remembered with the building of a monument in his honour.

Haliburton reminds Barrette of Haileybury, with its small town feel and friendly, helpful people; but it will never be home. She vows to return. "That's where I'm going to be buried. With my mom and dad."

Reina Barrette. Submitted.

Correction: In the July 10 *Highlander*, in the story 'Lochlin United turning 100', we got the spelling of musician Jodi Timgren's name wrong. We apologize for the error.

Highlander business

Blake honoured for 25 years with HCDC

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC) celebrated Jim Blake's retirement as a consultant for 25 years by holding a 'Jim Blake Day' July 9.

Blake said it all started with the community economic development committee, which had an arts committee subcommittee.

"They started doing a lot of projects, so they started contracting me to help coordinate that. And then, over time, I got involved in the whole operation of HCDC," he said.

It was hard for him to pick out highlights. He talked about the creation of the Arts Council Haliburton Highlands, and the trails and tours organization, which begat Hike Haliburton. He also assisted in landing the youth hub.

Blake also spoke of the community economic development funding and how a team had "helped, or given start-up money, to around 65 different initiatives or actual organizations, and most of those are still in existence, or a lot of them are still in existence."

He added, "the accomplishments really are the accomplishments of the community futures development corporation (CFDC)."

Blake said he had a hand in influencing HCDC to focus on the importance of community economic development. "To have a vibrant, sustainable and vital community you need a whole range of things going on, so it's not just about business. It's all about the fabric of the community and that covers a broad range, from cultural, to environmental, to social and economic."

Jim Blake during his day at HCDC July 9. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

He was part of developing the business incubator, which has now turned into The Link, and is home to the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and Arts Council, all of whom he worked with.

He said his biggest takeaway is "all the incredible things that go on in this community and being able to support people to realize those dreams.

"What a fantastic organization, the Haliburton County Development Corporation, with visionary leadership from the board of directors, who are all volunteers, and Andy Campbell for so long and then Patti Tallman. The fact they had the brilliance to set up this whole community economic development function of the corporation to really work on the vibrancy and sustainability of the community.

"When I go to different conferences and those sorts of things, people are just astounded as we're a fairly small, rural community but our CFDC has done an enormous number of things. It's not just about the amount of loans to the community, or the size of our investment fund. It's really people look at what we do in terms of being a catalyst for community economic development and ask us 'how can we do that'? And part of it is … one of the philosophies is, as opposed to saying this is the way things should happen, it's really what do the people of the community want to see happen, and then us supporting them in making those things happen. So, it's not a top-down thing, it's really a grassroots thing where people are coming to us and saying 'can you help us do this' and the answer is almost always yes, we can help you. It may not be with money but it may be with time or advice or linkages or those kinds of things."

Tallman, HCDC's executive director, spoke to Blake's contribution, saying, "his knowledge has been instrumental, but we know where to find him." She also commented on all of the projects Blake had assisted them in doing, which has literally poured millions of dollars into the community. "He works late into the night all the time … he just never stops. How appropriate is this to have a Jim Blake day?"

Highlander arts

Painter Michael Dumas will have his works featured in a new 'Of Light and Life' exhibit at Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden. *Submitted.*

Nature, wildlife the light of painter Michael Dumas' life

By Mike Baker

Debuting at Agnes Jamieson Gallery this week, a new exhibit by "world renowned" artist Michael Dumas will provide a thorough retrospective of his 50-plus year career, says curator Shannon Kelly.

Dumas' show 'Of Light and Life' takes over the Minden facility July 17, running through the rest of summer until Sept. 13. An opening reception takes place this weekend, July 19 from 1 to 3 p.m.

"Michael is incredibly well-known in the painting world – he has done so much during his career," Kelly said, noting his many highlights include works being featured on Canadian postage stamps and commemorative coins produced by the Royal Canadian mint.

Born and raised in Whitney, near Algonquin Park, Dumas has always been inspired by nature. He spent time in his early adult years as a ranger in Ontario's largest provincial park, responsible for patrolling and protecting the 7,653 sq. kilometre site.

This exposure allowed him to develop familiarity with the wilderness and its creatures, often key features of his art, Kelly added. "He's very connected to nature and Algonquin Park… his artwork is really reflective of that region."

The exhibit will feature pieces spanning Dumas' five decades as a professional, including several new paintings "he's really excited about," Kelly noted. There will be finished pieces, showcasing his trademark oil paint finish, but also sketches and "quick doodles" showing the process of how Dumas gets from point A to B.

The opening coincides with Dumas' 50th anniversary with wife, Ellen.

On his website, Dumas states a significant proportion of his art reflects his concern for the welfare of the natural world. In the late 1970s he was commissioned by the federal government for a multi-year project depicting 10 of Canada's most endangered species, following that up in the late 1980s with a series on endangered birds of prey, in conjunction with the Wildlife '87 Conservation Fund.

Dumas' paintings have been showcased in museums and galleries across Canada, the U.S., Japan and England. His conservation efforts have seen him work alongside Prince Philip, the former Duke of Edinburgh and husband to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfelt from the Netherlands, and the Prince and Princess Hitachi of the Japanese Imperial Family.

Despite rubbing shoulders with members of the world elite throughout the years, Dumas always appreciates returning to his roots in rural Ontario. He enjoys including pieces of himself, fragments of his life, in his art.

"The essential foundation for my work is direct observation of the world around me. It is born of a need to connect, to understand. Drawing and painting are the vehicles for this," Dumas said.

Expanding on his inspiration, the artist added, "there are innumerable things one can choose to paint… but the underlying purpose has to do with conveying something about why those objects inspire attention in the first place. Inspiration often comes unbidden and unexpected, a moment of heightened awareness that demands more than a fleeting glance.

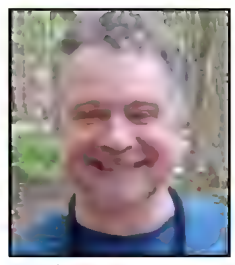
"Sketchbooks fill, studies accumulate, and when the impulse is strong enough finished works are the result."

Agnes Jamieson Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Highlander events

ADVERTORIAL

How to create your own cottage 'savanna'



By Simon Payn

Have you been to Barnum Creek Nature Reserve? I love it there - and one reason is because, unusual for the Highlands, part of it is open land rather than forest.

The area was farmed, and now the Land Trust is leaving unforested areas to encourage species that need this kind of habitat, while other areas are returning to forest. The result is, views open up and native shrubs punctuate the vista. There's a certain mystery.

These days, I look at landscapes through a designer's eye and I noticed how attractive this landscape is. And how it can translate into designs for our homes and cottages.

I learn from a designer, Kelly Norris, who uses what he calls the savanna archetype for some of his designs. A savanna is a mostly open area - under 30% tree coverage with the landscape filled with smaller shrubs, perennials and grasses.

It's said we like savannas because of our evolutionary history. Savannas, with their open areas and scattered trees, offer both viewing opportunities and shelter. In other words, we can see what's around... and we can hide from it.

Some have challenged that theory, but we can definitely say humans are drawn to landscapes with visual complexity and "mystery" - areas that invite exploration.

Dwelling in mystery

So how does this translate into the landscape around your home?

Imagine you've got a view from your cottage towards the lake. Currently, that view is open and covered in grass. There's nothing blocking your view of the water.

I think you can improve the view by putting something in front of it. When something partially obscures a view, it invites mystery. Your eye is led through the landscape, giving it more to dwell on. And more dwelling is more interesting!

Could you perhaps have a couple of small trees or taller shrubs that punctuate the view? Maybe something like an American Plum or a couple of Serviceberries? You (and nature) will be rewarded with flowers, fruit and colourful fall foliage, on top of an enhanced vista.

Then you could lead the eye through the strategic placement of a few shrubs. Perhaps a Pagoda Dogwood and a couple of Ninebarks? Surrounding these, maybe a two or three Northern Bayberries and some Bush Honeysuckles.

Then, in another layer, some flowering perennials. Depending on the amount of sun and moisture, perhaps some Foxglove Beardtongue for late in spring, a splash of Lanceleaf Coreopsis for summer yellow, or some Azure Asters for pale blue to round out the season?

You could leave the lawn surrounding all these plants, but perhaps save yourself some mowing by letting it grow a little longer. Or you could replace it with a matrix of warm-season bunchgrasses, sedges or strawberries.

Then, as your eye finally reaches the lake, you could create a planting of varied heights that lines the water, leaving some of the lake in mystery and at the same time helping to keep the water healthy. If it's wet, perhaps some Swamp Milkweed or Cardinal Flowers, coupled with some Sweet Gale and Meadowsweet.

A natural work of art

Are you starting to get the picture? Because what you are really doing is creating a picture for yourself using what nature has to offer.

Designing landscapes like this is a mix of aesthetics and psychology, with a hefty dose of native plants that encourage wildlife to our landscapes and keep our environment healhty.

With some careful thought and some good advice, you can create your own Highlands savanna.

That's a view I'd love to explore.

Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.

OTF's Klara Oyler, Haliburton Curling Club president Wanda Stephen and MPP Laurie Scott inside the facility's new kitchen. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

OTF cooks up new kitchen

By Mike Baker

Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) Klara Oyler told Haliburton Curling Club members that its application for money to renovate the facility's kitchen "had all the right ingredients."

Speaking at an unveiling for the new space June 25, Oyler said she was pleased to see the $141,600 gifted by OTF last year had been put to good use.

"This is close to home for me… I always like to say I'm from Haliburton and we can make things happen, so give us the money," said Oyler, who joined the OTF board in 2015. "I'm really impressed by the transformation… and all you were able to do with the money."

Club president Wanda Stephen said the upgrade was all about improving accessibility. The kitchen's footprint has been expanded, with new dishwasher, convection oven, warming oven, fridge and stainless-steel counters. The money also paid for a new freezer in the basement.

She paid tribute to past president Chester Howse, who successfully lobbied for a kitchen and lounge space in the mid-1990s, paving the way for this latest upgrade.

"Chester dared to dream of a kitchen and lounge that could host the masses. He thought the club could entice more people [to join] … and it worked," Stephen said.

"The last 10 years have been a struggle to adequately plan meals for large groups, we were also held hostage by aging appliances, often holding our breath that the dishwasher and oven would make it through another event.

"Curling clubs in rural Ontario are major hubs for gatherings and community events. We hope the addition… will attract more people to join us in the future," Stephen said.

The new space and equipment were utilized during the recent Haliburton Home and Cottage Show, with Stephen saying it was a "game-changer."

In 2024, OTF funded 730 projects across the province to the tune of $105 million, Oyler said. The organization is an agency of and funded by the Ontario government.

MPP Laurie Scott attended the unveiling, thanking OTF for continuing to invest in the Highlands community. She highlighted previous supports for Highlands Opera Studio's 'Let's Make an Opera' project and legion buildings across the County.

"These things make a big difference to our community… OTF helps many organizations, a lot of places wouldn't still be in existence, or would be a lot worse off if it wasn't for Trillium [money]," Scott said.

Highlander events

Fictional frenzy

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands presented the sixth-annual Bookapalooza at the Minden Community Centre July 12. There were about 40 authors, some from as far away as Ottawa and London, ON, showcasing their books in the exhibitor hall throughout the day; five workshops and presentations designed to help both seasoned writers and those just starting out; and a visit from sci-fi author Robert J. Sawyer, the only Canadian to win the Nebula, the Hugo, and the John W. Campbell awards – science fiction's three top writing accolades.

Top: Author Robert J. Sawyer signing a book for Neville Pereira. Above left: Sharon Lawrence, author of *Wolf Hollow Sanctuary*. Sharon is a retired educator, textile artist, painter, writer, speaker and wildlife rehabilitation worker. Bottom centre: New resident of Haliburton County and award-winning poet, novelist and creative writing instructor, Catherine Graham, stands tall and proud with her works *Submitted..* Bottom right: Author Hanna Park, award winning author of magical, steamy fiction. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

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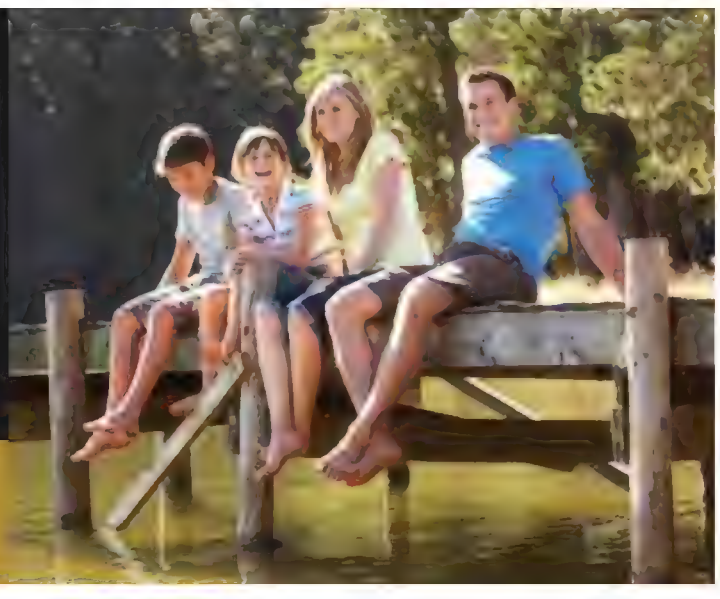

Highlander events

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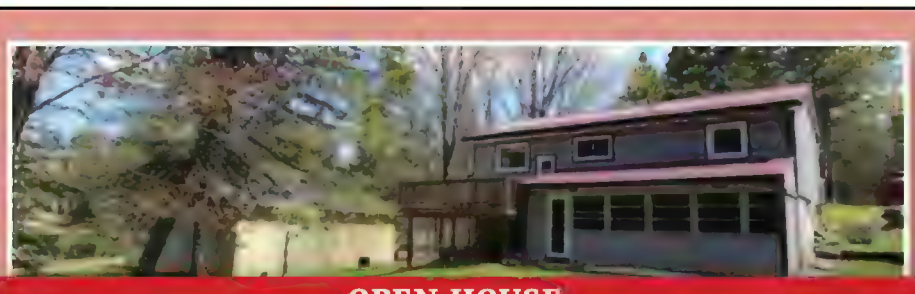

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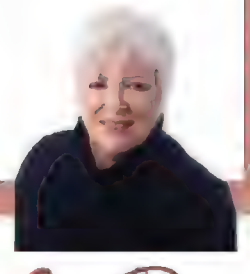

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Derek McCarthy and Heather Sargent were two of 25 volunteers who assissted with the CanoeFM Radiothon. *Submitted.*

CanoeFM Radiothon rakes in $55,000

By Mike Baker

After bringing in another $55,264 and counting, Roxanne Casey said the recent CanoeFM Radiothon fundraiser was another reminder of how much people value Haliburton County's community radio station.

The 15th annual event ran July 4-6, with more than 400 individual donors putting their hands into their pocket to support the station. Casey said the dollar amount raised during the three-day on-air celebration was almost identical to last year – no small feat given the ongoing economic uncertainty.

"Truly, we were a little bit worried this year. With all the tariffs and worry those have caused, I thought there was no chance we were going to do this well," Casey said. "It's absolutely phenomenal… and tells us that we're doing something right."

About 25 volunteers assisted, helping to take in-person and over-the-phone donations and keep listeners entertained.

Casey said her biggest takeaway was how much people appreciated Canoe's coverage in the days following the March 28 ice storm, which knocked out power to approximately 85 per cent of County residents. The station was able to utilize generators to stay on-air.

"Internet was down for almost everyone, cell reception was offline too, so for a lot of people the radio station was the only way they were keeping on top of things in the initial aftermath," Casey said. "It was so humbling hearing some of the stories. Sometimes you wonder if you're just spinning your wheels, are people really listening, but this told me loud and clear people appreciate what we do."

This year's live auction featured Toronto Blue Jays tickets, donated by Janis Parker, personalized concerts from County acts Carl Dixon, Drew Allen, and Craig and Maggie Thompson, a kayak donated by Canadian Tire, and a record player donated by Redman Records, raising more than $13,000.

Money was still trickling in July 7 – Casey said one long-time listener stopped by the station and donated up $200, wanting to do his part after being away for the weekend.

While there were a few sizable donations, notably a $5,000 gift from the estate of Patrick Monaghan, host of the station's popular Buckslide Blues Cruise show from 2016 to 2023, most of the money came in smaller increments.

"It was $5 here, $20 there – it's not like everyone came in and gave $100 minimum every time. People gave what they could, and we so, so appreciate whatever they could manage," Casey said.

The money will go into a pot to help sustain ongoing operations, which Casey pegged at about $400,000 this year. She said the station has about 65 active on-air hosts.

"We don't get money from anybody, no government support, so we have to raise our own funds. We do that through advertising, but it's events like this that really make a difference," she said. "We couldn't do this without our listeners, our businesses who support us every year, all the volunteers who are always more than happy to help."

Highlander events

Kids rock the bass

Good times were had by all at the 35th annual Don Thomas memorial rock bass tournament on Paudash Lake July 5. The event was open to youth aged two to 18, with dozens participating. Michael Thomas, president of the Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PLCA), which hosted the tourney, said the day helps to remove invasive fish from the water, with 238 pounds caught this year. Ten youth walked away with citizen science kits courtesy of Water Rangers, a PLCA group, with Thomas saying they will be utilized for water testing over the summer. *(Mike Baker).*

Left: Mother-daughter duo Monica and Summer McAlpine had a blast. Right: Hailey and Leah Richardson were excited after catching enough fish to fill a bag. *Submitted.*

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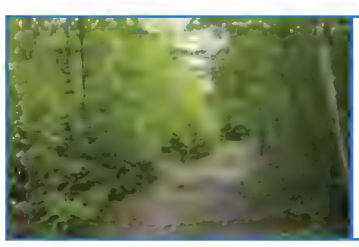

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Highlander events

Relaxation and rejuvenation

Abbey Gardens hosted its inaugural wellness event July 12. There were a number of demonstrations: including Barry Hayward opening the day with a drum circle; pony time; a tai chi/qi gong demonstration by Kelly Outram of KO Martial Arts; a hydrotherapy talk; and all ages yoga. It was promoted as a day of relaxation and rejuvenation, with tips and tools for improving well-being. People could also shop for local wellness products and services. (Lisa Gervais)

Left: John Watson and Chelsea Adamson were at the event on behalf of Sweat Social. Right top: Kearah Cloer is a yoga teacher and reiki practitioner. Right bottom: Berni Vernon brought her products to the event. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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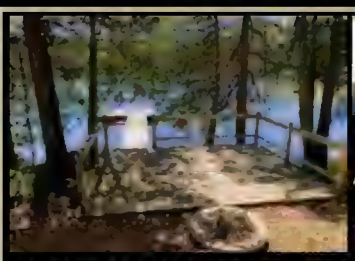

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Karen Koehler competed in the two-dog scooter event, alongside Mighty and Buncho, during the 2024 Canadian Dryland National Champions last October. *Photo courtesy of Chipperfield Photography.*

Best years in 40s and 50s

By Mike Baker

In many ways, Highlands resident Karen Koehler believes her life truly began as she approached her forties.

Now 52, the four-time Canadian dryland dog racing champion is living her best life; one jam-packed with continuous learning, movement and outdoor activity inspired by the unlikeliest of rebirths two decades ago.

Koehler was an outdoor educator turned school teacher in 2004 when she and her partner, Rob Sargent, went in search of a four-legged companion. Having recently bought a home in the area, they wanted to expand their family and settled on a retired sled dog.

Even at 10 years old, Robbie was an active dog – Koehler recalls taking him on daily outings immediately after bringing him home. After adding 11-year-old Arctic a year later, she dabbled in competitive racing. Her first event was a skijor race at the Pinestone in 2004.

She built momentum from there, becoming a more competitive racer towards the end of the 2000s. By then, Robbie and Arctic had retired, with Koehler adding Tease and Finney to the family. Together, they dominated local circuits. Wanting to test herself against the best, Koehler cast her gaze up the ladder, competing in her first world championship event in Norway in 2011.

It was an eye-opening experience. Lining up with her powerhouse Alaskan sled dogs, Koehler said she struggled to keep up with the competition. It forced her to look within. The answer, she felt, was taking every aspect within her control to the next level while keeping it fun – focusing on nutrition and physical training, while acquiring more puppies from Norway.

Fast forward to 2025 and Koehler is a celebrated competitor, still turning heads on the track. Away from competition, she's developed her skills further, becoming a personal trainer and certified health and life coach, while also running activities at Haliburton Forest through Yours Outdoors. She uses her own personal experiences to show people it's never too late to turn their lives around – providing they put in the work.

"When we get close to 40, people will say things like 'oh, I can't do that, I'm too old now'. I'm proof that's not the case, I've had my best years in my 40s and 50s," Koehler said, noting she's got two upcoming talks – one at the Dysart et al branch of the Haliburton County Public Library July 30, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and another at the Minden Cultural Centre Aug. 20, from 2-3:30 p.m.

"We were built to move – we have legs, not a mushroom stem… yet 70 per cent of the population is considered sedentary, they make no effort to put activity into their lives," she said. "For most people, the biggest obstacle they have to overcome is the one in their mind."

The talks will centre on what Koehler sees as the three keys to unleashing strength, joy and fulfillment in life. Key focuses include finding happiness through movement, adjusting everyday thinking from what she calls fixed mindsets, believing you are stuck where you are, to a growth mindset, where you active move towards your dreams, and strengthening body and character to get there.

She started hosting talks virtually in October, working with several County-based clients to inspire positive developments in everyday life.

"Almost everything in our lives – our relationships, health, fitness, career, spirituality, money, they all go together and what we're doing in one area influences everything in terms of our habits… but there are ways we can build small confident steps to be the best that we can be.

"Once positive energy starts flowing and people feel stronger, it can be easy to stagnate. So ongoing support is vital – most of us don't make it past six weeks when trying to make a big change. A lot of times, it can take months to make real change," Koehler said.

The sessions cost $15 to attend, with proceeds being donated to the Minden Community Food Centre and 4CS Food Bank in Haliburton.

Her message is a simple one – if you want to improve your life and heal, just move.

"The pain you're feeling in your body, we can learn from. My hands are fine after years of suffering, that's because I learned what worked for me, how to take care of myself. You just have to figure out what your body needs – it wants to heal and it wants to move, the two together are power," Koehler said.

For more talk and ticket information, visit bunchomomentum.com. Snacks will be provided by Country Bakery and Minden and Haliburton Foodland.

Junior highlanders

Award honours hard-working students

By Lisa Gervais

Calla Jones and Carter Mitchell were named SIRCH's 'opportunity looks like hard work' award winners this year.

The honour recognizes students who not only dedicate themselves to their studies, but also seize the chance to work at a local business while attending school full-time.

"These remarkable individuals have shown that opportunity often comes disguised as hard work - and that the rewards are well worth the effort," SIRCH's Laurie McCaig said.

"Through their commitment, our winners have gained real-world experience, developed essential life skills, and built relationships with people from all walks of life. Their journeys have taught them the value of problem-solving, achievement, communication, and helping others. They have learned what it means to expand their horizons, discover their strengths, and contribute to their families and communities."

The awards were handed out June 25.

Jones, who teaches skiing at Sir Sam's Skid/Ride said, "I always give lots of praise, especially to kids, and get down on one knee, take off my goggles, and make sure they can see my face – so they feel comfortable and know I'm really there for them. I also try to connect with customers about where they're from and recommend local businesses."

Mitchell added, "I love being able to help people. I know that it involves a lot of hard work and dedication to it and I always strive to be there on time, help as many customers as I can, and just all around be a good person while I work."

Carter Mitchell, Steve Todd, Calla Jones and Stacy McLean. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

The history of the award is that when Stacy McLean, finance manager at SIRCH, married Steve Todd of Todd's Your Independent, the senior staff and board wanted to do something special.

"Both Stacy and Steve have an incredible work ethic that started young. Both worked while attending school and see it as a valuable way to increase one's opportunities and options as a high school student," McCaig said. SIRCH raised $500 and the Todds matched that amount. Jones and Mitchell received $500 each for their positive, can-do attitudes, great customer service, reliability, and excellent communication and problem-solving skills. The awards are for Grade 9-11 students in the County who work a part-time job in customer service and maintain at least a 70 per cent average.

Thank you Fishing Derby Sponsors!

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Olivia Emmerson
Girls 10-11 - White Team

Raelyn
Girls 7-9 - Blue Team

Rory
Boys 4-6 - Purple Team

Improvements already in week two

The difference between the first week of the soccer season and the second week is always remarkable, and this year is no exception.

There's a noticeable leap in ability, skill, and overall comfort level as these young athletes take the lessons from week one and return to the field with a renewed sense of confidence and a much stronger understanding of the game. You can see it in the way they run, pass, and communicate — there's more certainty in their movements and a clearer grasp of their roles on the field.

The games themselves become faster-paced and more intense, with higher energy and more determined efforts from all players. There's more passing, more teamwork, louder encouragement from teammates, and some truly epic saves that get the sidelines cheering. Players who were hesitant last week are now diving into the action, showing courage and creativity with the ball.

As coaches, it's incredibly rewarding to see these early improvements and the positive response to the training exercises we've introduced. With this early momentum, we're aiming to challenge them further in the coming weeks — testing their determination, sharpening their instincts, and helping them embrace tougher situations on the field.

And through it all, parents are there on the sidelines, cheering proudly, phones and cameras in hand, capturing every sprint, goal, and smile. *(Submitted)*

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Stingray 172 DC
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Bennington 20 SL
VF90hp SHO Yamaha, Mooring Cover, 10' Bimini Top, Blackout Package, Windshield, Ski Tow, Tilt Steering, Speedo

Bennington 188 SVL
Yamaha T50 High Thrust Outboard, Mooring Cover, Bimini Top, Tilt Steering, Seagrass Flooring, Swim Ladder, Table

2024 Monterey M205
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Highlander community

Tee-ing off for Canada

The Haliburton Highlands Women's Golf League held its Canada Day celebration at Pinestone Resort. Cheryl Howe said, "it was a huge success and our Canadian spirit was on full display with decorated carts and everyone in their red and white."

Pictured are Sandi Glecoff on the left, and Donna West on the right. Inset: Sandra Cassidy won best dressed. *Submitted.*

Highlands Summer Festival founders celebrate 25 years

Many of the founders of the Highlands Summer Festival gathered July 1 to mark the organization's 25th anniversary. The group was introduced by business manager Ken Loney prior to the start of the festival's opening production of Urinetown. The Highlands theatre innovators include, from the left: Jack Brezina, Christine Archer, Doug Brohm, Debbie Dart, Lauren McInnes, Curtis Eastmure, June Smith, Betty Mills, Melissa Stephens, David Mills and Tom Regina. Absent: Peggy Bradford, Darrell Dobson, John Miller and Donna Gagnon. Deceased Craig Saunders and Caryl Miller. *Photo by Wendy Evenden, Highlands Summer Festival.*

BodyMed boutique

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July 24, 2025 10am to 4pm

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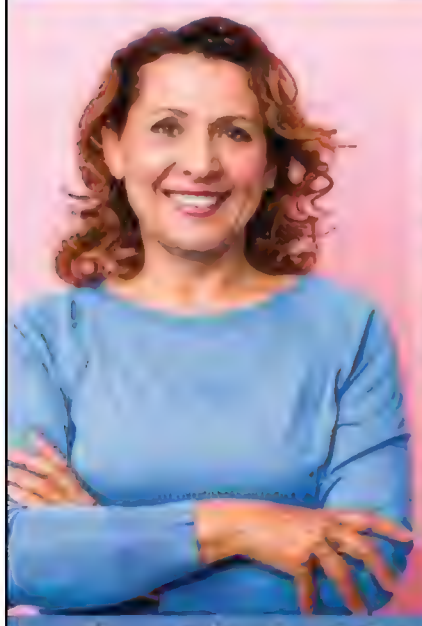

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-Anne, a valued client.

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705-306-2782
bodymednorth@gmail.com

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Reform & Restore Wellness Hub
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pridehighlands.ca

QUEER COMEDY NIGHT

PRIDE IN THE HIGHLANDS

at Sir Sam's Ski & Bike

featuring:
TED MORRIS // HEATHER MANKU
ROBERT WATSON // LOU CURRIE

TICKETS $25

SIR SAM'S

FRIDAY JULY 25

Highlander community

100 women care for youth

On June 26, some of the 100 Women Who Care Haliburton executive, and a couple of members, went to the Bridge Youth Centre to present a cheque for $11,900 to Haliburton Highlands Youth Unlimited. They were chosen June 18 to be quarterly recipients. Leanne Young said, “Youth Unlimited believes in the hope and potential of every young person and therefore strives to help youth reach their full potential. The money will go towards providing youth a positive community to be a part of, caring adults to come alongside them and support them, and activities that are life-giving through the Bridge Youth Centre.” 100 Women Haliburton welcomes new members. Membership forms and information can be found at 100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com. Their next meeting is Oct. 8 at the Minden Curling Club.

Pictured, L to R, Leanne Young, Tina Palmer, Pat Bradley, Margaret Cox, Val Jarvis, Mary Morton and Linda Hummel. *Submitted.*

Clowning around

Minden Rotary celebrity clowns circulate through the crowd at Minden community events handing out little red noses. On Canada Day, they collected $311 in coins. Rotarian Sally Moore encourages everyone to save their coins and deliver them to a clown at Rotaryfest Aug. 9. Moore said, “our community ‘nose’ how important it is to support Rotary. Moore received a cheque for $100 from Minden Auto Care July 3. “Minden Rotary appreciates the financial support of our business community. All corporate donations to Minden Rotary go towards community projects in the Minden area,” Moore said.

Pictured, from left to right, Maugwan Woods, Lori Pennie, Dennis Pennie, Sally Moore, Adam Judd, Caden Harnum and Damian Brand. *Submitted.*

What's on

Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 31, 2025, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Submitted tenders will be opened live on YouTube using the link:

https://youtube.com/live/32olSuUcNEk?feature=share

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 40100 0000; PIN 39170-0005 (R); PART OF LOTS 13 AND 14, CONCESSION 5, NOW DESIGNATED AS PART 2 ON REFERENCE PLAN 19R10954, IN THE GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF DYSART, UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE, COUNTY OF HALIBURTON (LAND REGISTRY OFFICE NO. 19); File No. 23-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $23,000
Minimum tender amount: $18,181.85
2. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 56010 0000; 201 MOUNTAIN ST., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0106 (LT); PT LT 15 CON 6 DYSART PT 1 19R5232; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $34,500
Minimum tender amount: $7,325.90
3. Roll No. 46 24 030 000 40805 0000; PIN 39157-0107 (LT); PT LT 21 CON 4 HARCOURT AS IN H71718 S & E OF PT 4 19R1004; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-14
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $28,000
Minimum tender amount: $6,493.38
4. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 17115 0000; PIN 39169-0240 (LT); PT LT 27 CON 2 DYSART PT 2 19R3299; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-31
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $43,500
Minimum tender amount: $7,110.38

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca
or if no internet access available, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext.639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca
www.dysartetal.ca

Love on the rock

Taliah Stephenson and Liam Mosher on the set of *The Salt-Water Moon*. The play, a Canadian classic by David French, is a love story set in Newfoundland after the First World War. The first performance was July 15, and the show runs until July 22. Tickets are available through the Highlands Summer Festival website. *(Submitted)*

NEW TO YOU
COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Shop 35 yard sales all in one spot!

Saturday, July 19, 2025
8 AM to 1 PM
Parking lot of A.J. LaRue Arena
728 Mountain Street, Haliburton

Shoppers: park on Highland Street, Maple Avenue, or a free municipal parking lot on Highland Street, York Street, Park Street

Visit our satellite locations on Saturday, July 19, 2025:
In-store sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Haliburton 4Cs Lily Ann Thrift Store, 33 York St, Haliburton
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Thrift Warehouse, 128 Mallard Road, Haliburton

Gently-used book sales at:
- 10 AM - 2 PM: Dysart Branch–Haliburton County Public Library, 78 Maple Avenue, Haliburton (hosted by Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library
- 10 AM - 5 PM: Haliburton Highlands Museum, 66 Museum Rd, Haliburton

Municipality of Dysart et al
Download our free mobile app Haliburton County Waste Wizard
App Store Google Play
www.dysartetal.ca
705-457-1740

What's on

WHAT'S HAPPENING
JULY 17 - JULY 23 this week

Thursday July 17

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday July 18

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Van Hillert, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Friday July 18, Haliburton Brewing, Bill Black, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday July 19

Boshkung Smokehouse, Bill Black, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Will Surphlis, 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday July 20

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Victor Morgado, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday July 22

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park, featuring The Recycled Teenagers, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday July 23

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Cam Galloway, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!

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SMOKE ON THE WATER
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Haliburton Rotary
ROTARY Music IN THE Park 2025
Every Tuesday!
June 24 - August 26
Head Lake Park, Haliburton
For more information:
rcofhaliburton rcofhaliburton

DO YOU THROW EVENTS?

Don't miss out!

Hit us up to be advertised here in the weekly entertainment section.

laurie@thehighlander.ca

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Thursday with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. July 121 and 28. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are July 23, 30 at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

EVENTS

There's nothing better than summer reading. Pick up a free TD Summer Reading Club Kit at any Haliburton County Public Library branch. Read the summer away and complete activities for a chance to win a prize. Submit a 'book bingo' card and/or the 'reading passport' by Aug. 15 to enter the draw. There are activities for people of all ages and abilities.

July 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is holding a summer book sale at the Dysart et al branch. Book sales are by donation, with proceeds benefitting all branches County-wide with money going towards new e-books, ukuleles, children's early learning computers, and a karaoke machine.

July 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners Association is hosting Art on the Dock. This event will run two days, also on July 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come out and see what our wonderful artistic minds have created. For more information, visit klcoa.org.

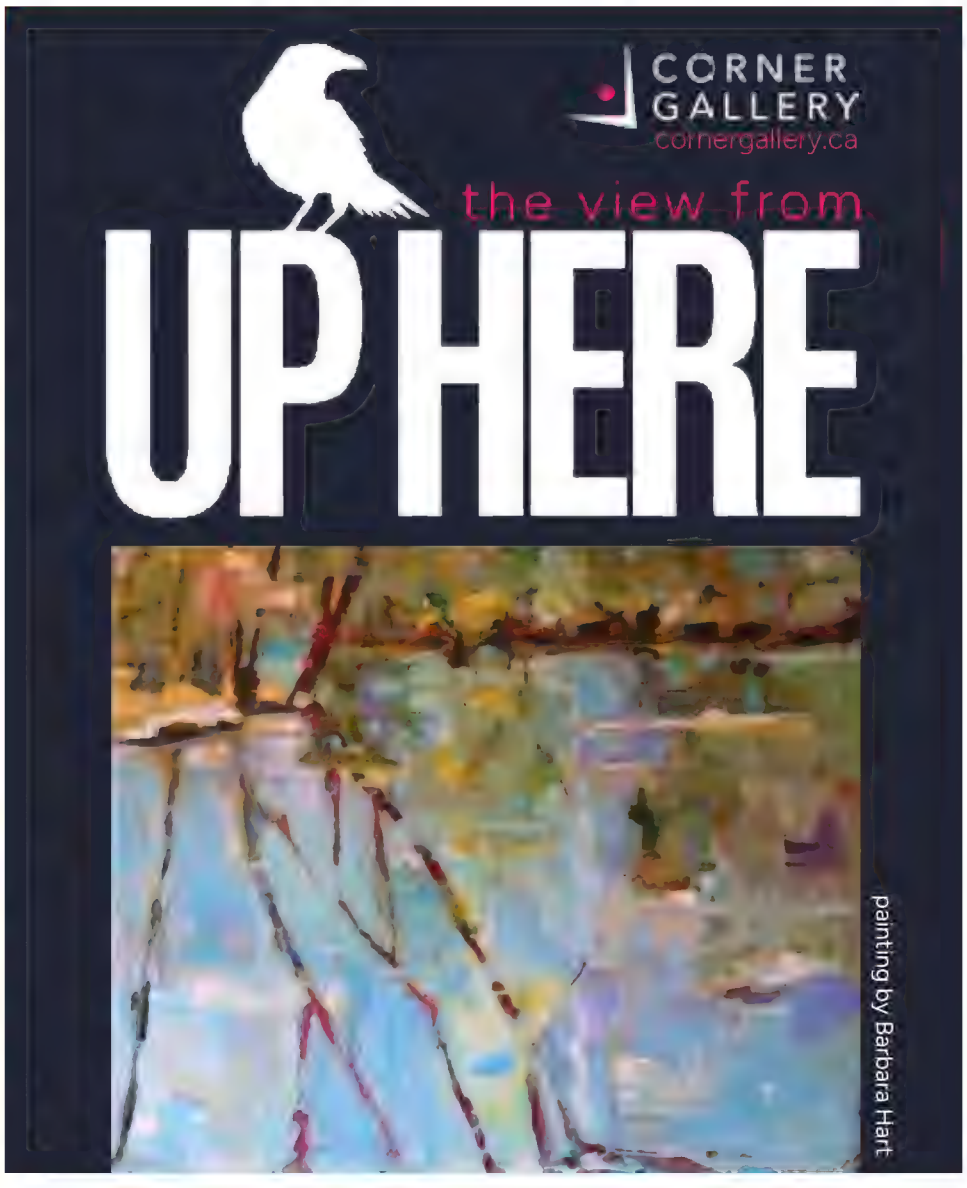
July 19, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The Bonnieview Inn is hosting a 'Kash & Grass lakes' social event, featuring food and a cash bar. Tickets are $15 for members of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization and $20 for non-members and are available at www.lko.com. All are welcome.

July 19, 5 to 7 p.m. The Wilberforce Curling Club is hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Adults eat for $15, children aged five to 12 for $5, and kids under five free. Drop in and have a delicious dinner before the start of the penny raffle.

July 19, 5 to 8 p.m. Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre is hosting 'Brooksong Day' at Hook, Line and Sinker in Haliburton. There will be live music by Thom Lambert and Brooksong staff selling t-shirts and collecting donations. All proceeds will support the annual Haliburton Highlands Challenge fundraiser.

July 19, 8 p.m. annual penny raffle fundraiser at the Wilberforce arena. Over 150 prizes to be raffled. Free admission. Doors open between 1-3 p.m. to see the prizes and deposit tickets. Arena reopens at 5:30 p.m. with exhibit tables, snack bar, kids' games, face painting, a mad hatter table, and more. Early bird draws are at 7 p.m. For more information, or to donate prizes, contact Kathy Rogers at 705-488-1285 or wilberforcefunraising@gmail.com.

July 22, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to 2 hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca



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HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for a

Senior Planner

Reporting to the Director of Planning, the Senior Planner manages the day-to-day workflow of development applications, provides professional planning opinions, and holds responsibility for Land Division Committee meetings. The successful applicant will hold a university degree in Planning or a related field and possess 4 years of related municipal experience. They will also be a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) in good standing, with a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI).

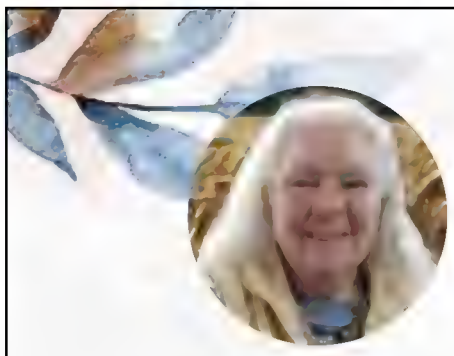
This position reports to the County of Haliburton Administration Office, Monday - Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm. The salary range is $100,260.30 to $117,290.37 and includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on July 31st, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

THANK YOU



The family of the late
Marjorie Muir
would like to thank the dedicated staff at Highland Wood long term care for their compassionate care during her residency there.

Thank you,
Brian & Janice Muir

HELP WANTED

Fiore verde

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Unit 5, Minden

WANTED

THEY LOST EVERYTHING

Looking for a small camper trailer to provide a temporary home for my daughter's family, alongside my cabin here in Haliburton.

My daughter, son-in-law and 8 year old granddaughter had been renovating a sailboat to embark on a sailing adventure starting in Prince Edward County, Ontario. They made their way to the Bahamas and planned to keep going, but a sailing accident has taken their floating home and all their belongings. But they are safe! As my daughter said "Mischief" will rest peacefully and provide a home for ocean creatures. After a heroic rescue by the Coast Guards, they have found safe haven on a small island in the Bahamas until they can return home to Canada. The kind people on the island have given them the clothes off their backs and food from their tables.

Please contact Lynn Simpson at 705-457-6422 or at simpsonlynn1958@gmail.com

With a heavy heart – Thank You!

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EVENT

EVENT - STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass in one or two day classes.. Call Tom at 705-286-3628

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NOTICE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21.
For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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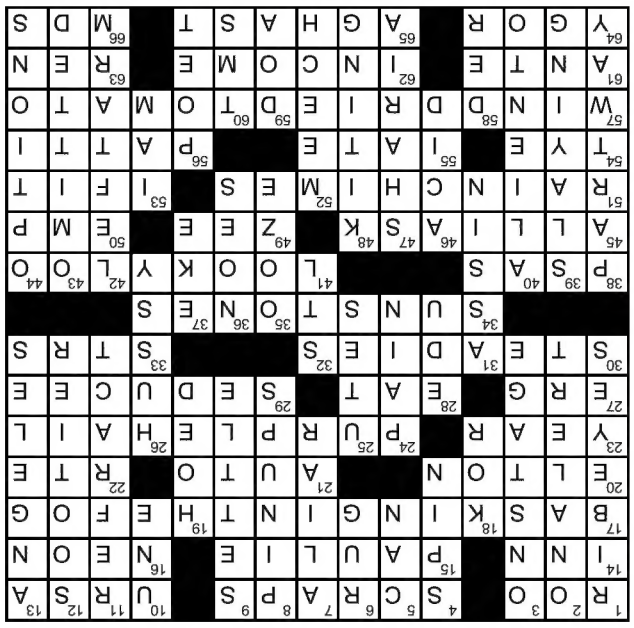
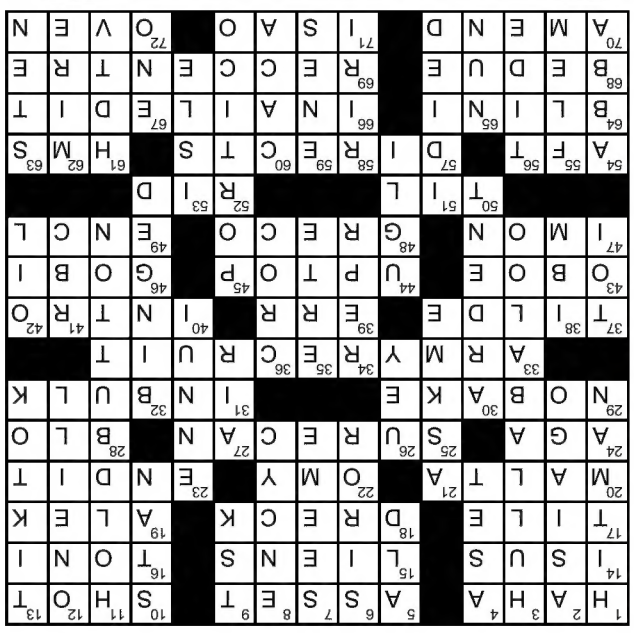
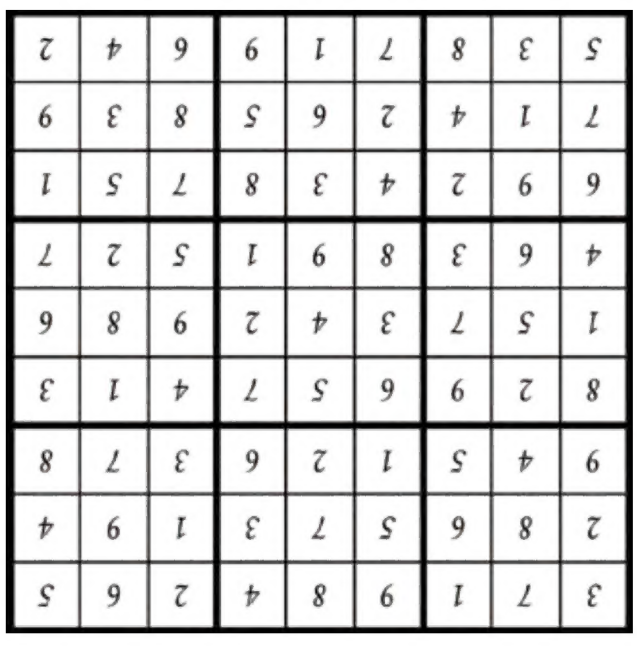


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Robert Scott Vasey

October 24, 1966 – July 6, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert Scott Vasey, who left us peacefully on July 6, 2025.

Scott is lovingly remembered by his daughter Kyra Vasey (Greg Clements), his son Braeden Vasey (Sara Bull), their mother Jenny Rendall and his cherished granddaughter Tatum Vasey. He also leaves behind his beloved partner Colleen Bagshaw, who stood by his side with unwavering love and support.

He is predeceased by his father Gary Vasey. He is survived by his mother, Jeanne Egan (91); his brother Ted Vasey (Susie Vasey); his sisters Lesley Anne Killoran (Bernie Killoran), Patti Lou Robinson (Michael Robinson), as well as many adored nieces and nephews who brought joy to his life.

Born and raised in Bradford, Ontario, Scott spent much of his youth between home and the family cottage in Minden, where his love for the outdoors began. He graduated from Fleming College with a diploma in Fish and Wildlife, laying the foundation for a life spent immersed in the natural world. In his late twenties, Scott travelled across North America working as a salesman for Ian Jones Sales Limited, and later became a licensed life Insurance Advisor with Sun Life Financial, retiring at the young age of 48. Retirement marked a return to his true passion—fish and wildlife. If there was an open hunting season anywhere, Scott was ready and in his element. His time at the hunt camp became not only his favourite pastime but a source of lifelong friendships and cherished memories.

Scott lived life fully and authentically. He was passionate, generous, and endlessly devoted to his family and friends. His presence, laughter, and stories will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Scott's Life will be held at the West Guilford Community Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Road, West Guilford on Friday, August 1, 2025 with visitation from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm with tributes starting at 2:00 pm.

Let's carry Scott's legacy forward by spreading the same love and generosity he shared with the world. If you feel moved to make a donation in his memory, please consider doing so in a way that reflects what Scott stood for: helping others without expectation.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Daniel (Dan) John Geffros

October 24, 1958 – July 11, 2025

The world evolves. It changed for many of us leaving a profound impact with a huge void as we grieve the loss of a good, kind man. Daniel (Dan) John Geffros left this earthly realm surrounded by the love of his family, many dear friends and his partner in life.

Dan was a conventional, reliable and predictable man who held steadfast to his beliefs. He was simple yet complex. He was quiet, as the adage goes; "still water runs deep" yet still quick with a quip. Dan... A life lived in reverence and humility with deep understanding of the who and why in life. Respectful of the rhythms of his life. With no private agenda but with a quiet submissive spirit, he enjoyed life. Simplicity and truth anchored his heart. When we miss him most we will reminisce with stories and joyful, thankful hearts; a captivating bonfire... the silhouette of a man in deep contemplation while fishing on the late, a Maple Leaf Jersey (there has never been a more devoted fan).

Deeply missed by his partner in life Jacqueline Ziörjen, son Ben Geffros, daughter Sophie Geffros, stepdaughter Allana Ziörjen, granddaughter Rhea Ziörjen (Grumpa was her "Blizzard Buddy"), many loving siblings, extended family, his "Pump Shop" family and the greatest friends anyone could ask for.

His memory will be honoured in a variety of special moments shared by his family and by his friends.

Memorial Donations to Places for People would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory

Rodney "Rod" Roberts

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully surrounded by family and friends at Haliburton Hospital on Monday, July 7th, 2025, in his 71st year.

Beloved husband of Pamela Marlene Roberts (nee Schell). Loving father of Vanessa Marlene Roberts (Jonny Brouwer) and Logan Stanley Roberts (Dr. Meghan Goodrow). Predeceased by his Mother Irene Roberts (nee Bain), Father Stan Roberts.

His absence will be deeply felt by his grandchildren: Charlotte and Tommy Brouwer, and Brinton and McKye Roberts. Dearly missed by his sister, Maxine Magee (nee Roberts) and her husband Wim, as well as his brother Cleve Roberts and his Wife Liane (nee Whitfield).

Rod was predeceased by his Mother-in-law, Ruth Schell (nee Curry), and Father-in-law, Leslie Schell. He will be fondly remembered by his Brother-in-law, Luke Schell, and his Wife, Shelley (nee Thomson). His memory will be cherished by his many fabulous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and his many friends.

Visitation & Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario KoM 1So on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for a Celebration of Rod's life beginning at 1:00 (Visitation 2 hours prior.) As an expression of sympathy, donations in Rod's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

In Loving Memory of

Jacqueline "Jackie" Lenore Davis (nee Mason)

Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, July 6, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved wife of the late Bryan (2013). Loving mother of Dennise (Ron) and predeceased by Danny (1995). Daughter of the late Pearl and John Mason. Dear sister of Zetta May (Alex), Helen (Moses – deceased), Darlene (Royce – deceased), Bobby (deceased), Johnny (deceased)(Nancy), Rosezetta (Shane) and Perry. Sister-in-law of Dennis (Susan). Jackie will be missed by her many friends and family.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario KoM 2Ko on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Graveside Interment Service at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 14289 Durham Regional Rd. 39, Zephyr, Ontario LoE 1To on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Egypt Hall, 6756 Smith Blvd., Egypt, Ontario LoE 1Ro.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

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Highlander puzzles

In the Midst of It All

by Barbara Olson
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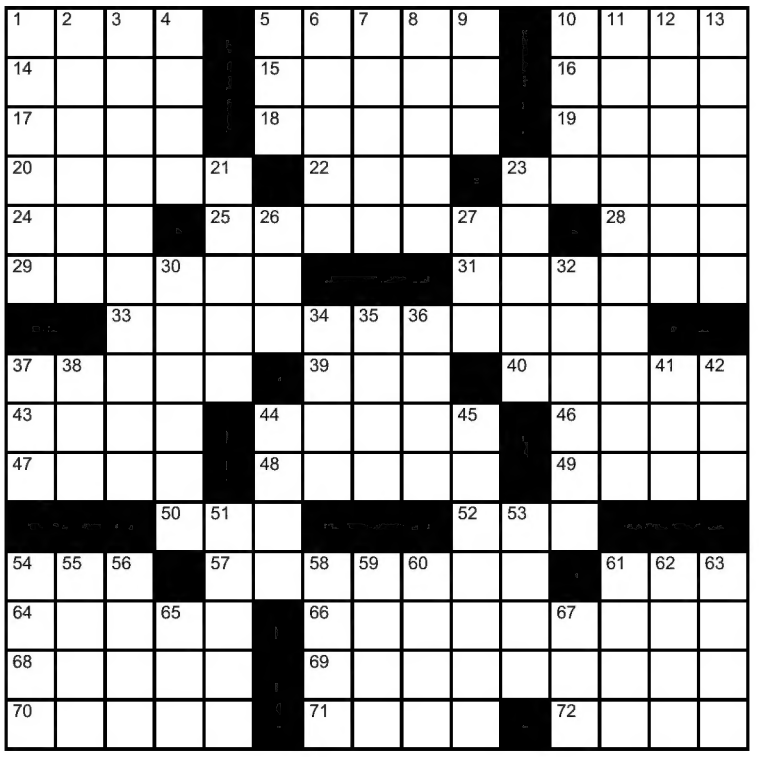
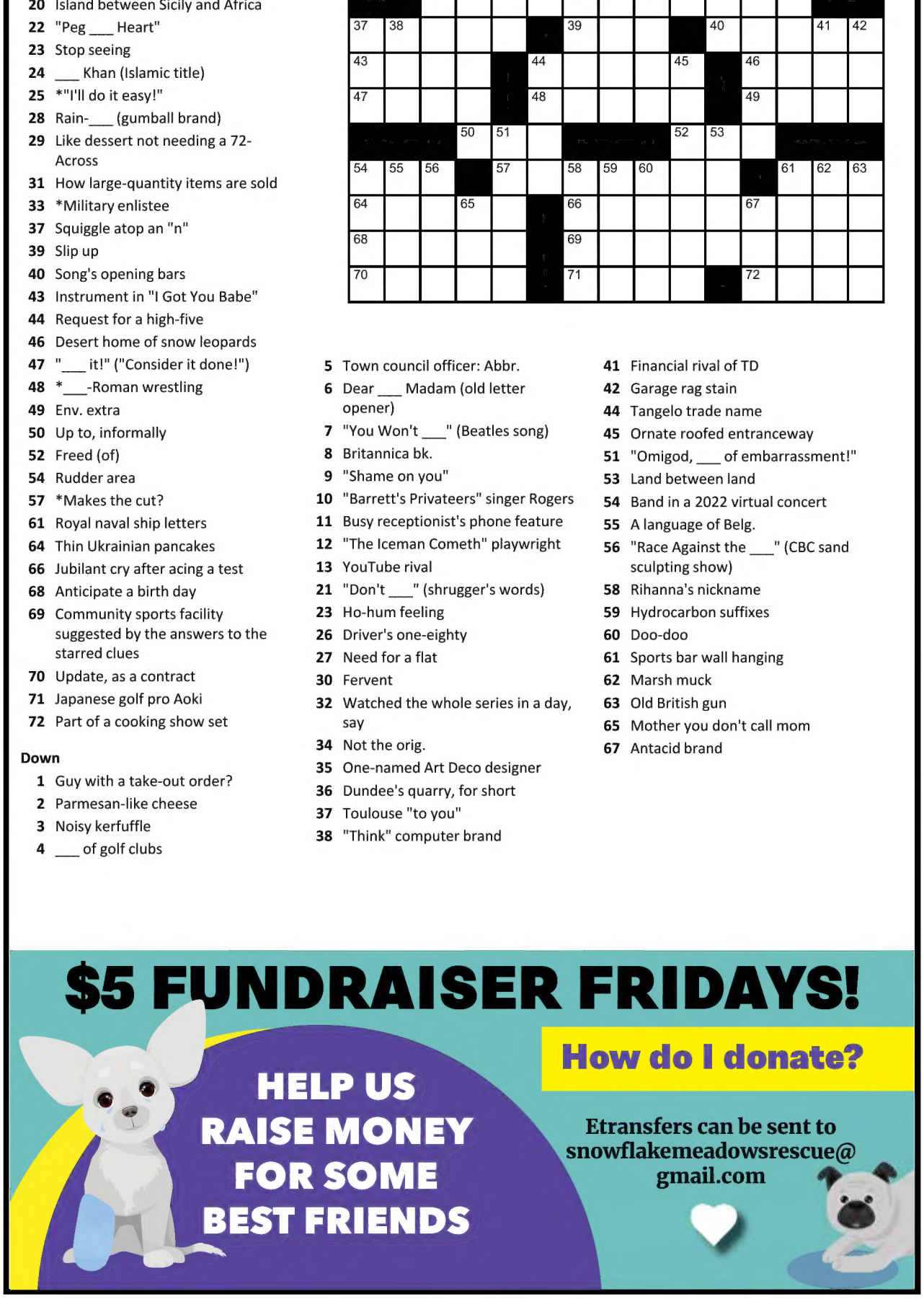


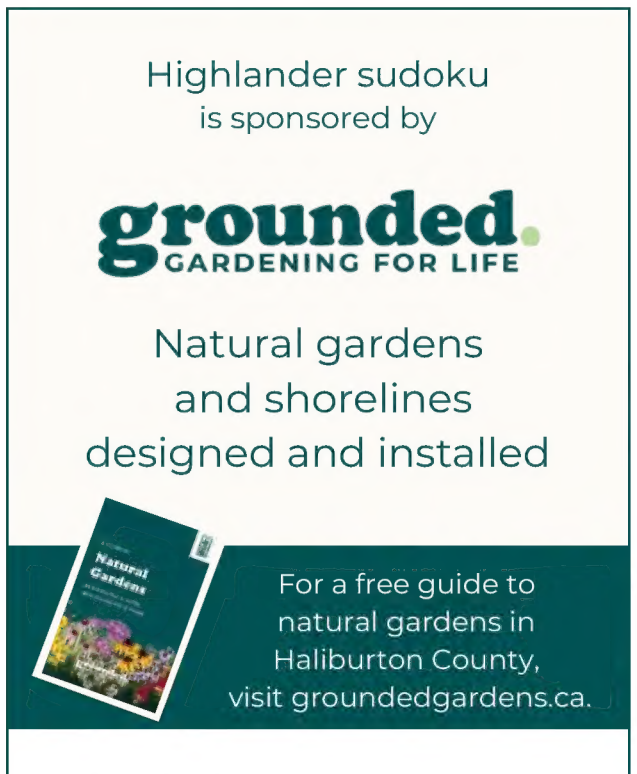
Across

1 Verbal LOL
5 Liability opposite
10 Down-the-hatch drink
14 Drama series "This ___"
15 Lender's securities
16 "Tar Baby" writer Morrison
17 Scrabble piece
18 *Worthless stuff
19 Ex-Vancouver Canuck Stojanov
20 Island between Sicily and Africa
22 "Peg ___ Heart"
23 Stop seeing
24 ___ Khan (Islamic title)
25 *"I'll do it easy!"
28 Rain-___ (gumball brand)
29 Like dessert not needing a 72-Across
31 How large-quantity items are sold
33 *Military enlistee
37 Squiggle atop an "n"
39 Slip up
40 Song's opening bars
43 Instrument in "I Got You Babe"
44 Request for a high-five
46 Desert home of snow leopards
47 "___ it!" ("Consider it done!")
48 *___-Roman wrestling
49 Env. extra
50 Up to, informally
52 Freed (of)
54 Rudder area
57 *Makes the cut?
61 Royal naval ship letters
64 Thin Ukrainian pancakes
66 Jubilant cry after acing a test
68 Anticipate a birth day
69 Community sports facility suggested by the answers to the starred clues
70 Update, as a contract
71 Japanese golf pro Aoki
72 Part of a cooking show set

Down

1 Guy with a take-out order?
2 Parmesan-like cheese
3 Noisy kerfuffle
4 ___ of golf clubs
5 Town council officer: Abbr.
6 Dear ___ Madam (old letter opener)
7 "You Won't ___" (Beatles song)
8 Britannica bk.
9 "Shame on you"
10 "Barrett's Privateers" singer Rogers
11 Busy receptionist's phone feature
12 "The Iceman Cometh" playwright
13 YouTube rival
21 "Don't ___" (shrugger's words)
23 Ho-hum feeling
26 Driver's one-eighty
27 Need for a flat
30 Fervent
32 Watched the whole series in a day, say
34 Not the orig.
35 One-named Art Deco designer
36 Dundee's quarry, for short
37 Toulouse "to you"
38 "Think" computer brand
41 Financial rival of TD
42 Garage rag stain
44 Tangelo trade name
45 Ornate roofed entranceway
51 "Omigod, ___ of embarrassment!"
53 Land between land
54 Band in a 2022 virtual concert
55 A language of Belg.
56 "Race Against the ___" (CBC sand sculpting show)
58 Rihanna's nickname
59 Hydrocarbon suffixes
60 Doo-doo
61 Sports bar wall hanging
62 Marsh muck
63 Old British gun
65 Mother you don't call mom
67 Antacid brand





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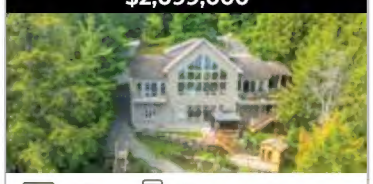

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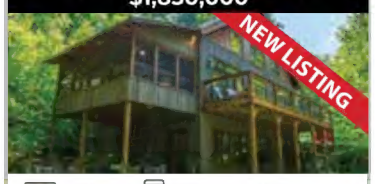

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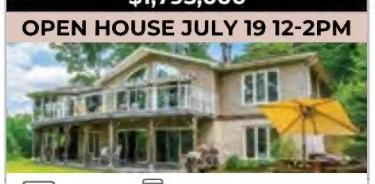

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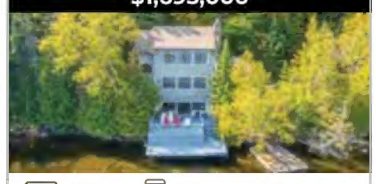

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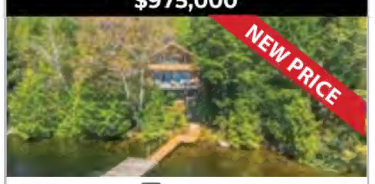

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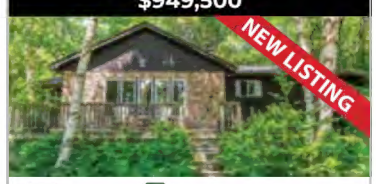

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12273143

LONG LAKE
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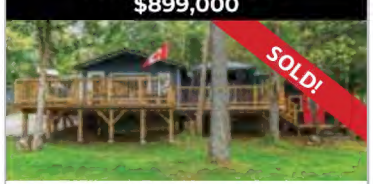
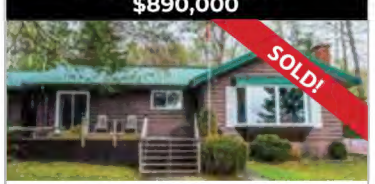
6X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12146750

KOSHLONG LAKE
$899,000



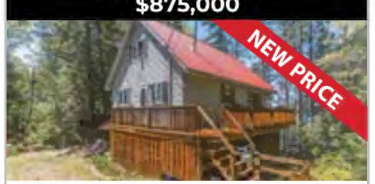
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12166694

HALIBURTON LAKE
$890,000



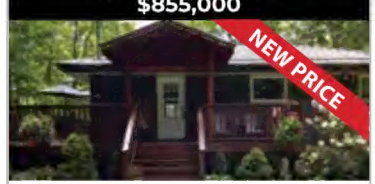
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12074153

KENNISIS LAKE
$875,000



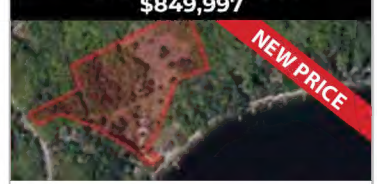
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12176356

NEGAUNEE LAKE
$855,000



3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12120338

HORSESHOE LAKE
$849,997

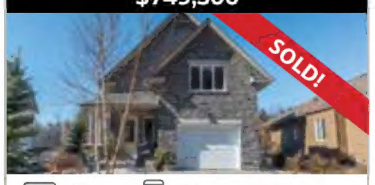


3X BED | 3X BATH | MLS # X12189937

BEECH LAKE
$824,900

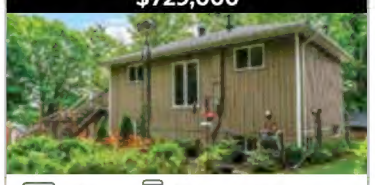
2X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12250094

SILVER BEACH
$749,500



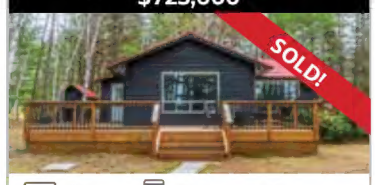
3X BED | 4X BATH | MLS # X12071612

TROOPER LAKE
$729,000



3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12236448

WILBERMERE LAKE
$725,000

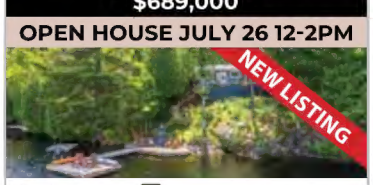


3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12138474

KENNISIS RIVER
$725,000

3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12137708

KOSHLONG LAKE
$689,000
OPEN HOUSE JULY 26 12-2PM



2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS #

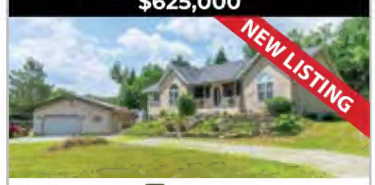
EAGLE LAKE AREA
$659,900

2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12095585

SALERNO LAKE
$659,000

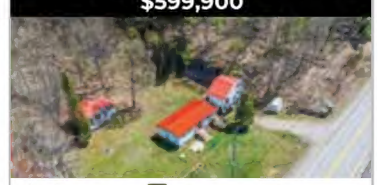
3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12253284

KOSHLONG LAKE ROAD
$625,000



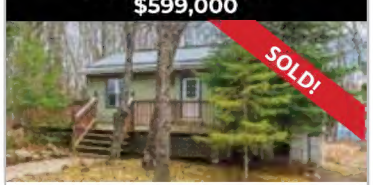
3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12279503

KUSHOG LAKE (RD BETWEEN)
$599,900



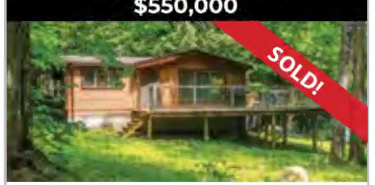
4X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12140930

CRANBERRY LAKE
$599,000



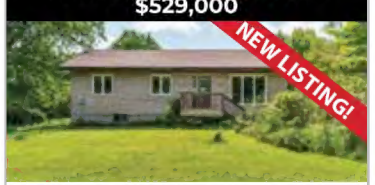
2X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12101365

LITTLE KENNISIS
$550,000



3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12219556

BOSHKUNG LAKE ROAD
$529,000



3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12247198

WILBERFORCE
$499,000

3X BED | 2X BATH | MLS # X12093164

GELERT ROAD
$390,000

3X BED | 1X BATH | MLS # X12267121

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

Highlands East
MLS X12209117
$129,500
2.11 Acres

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X12198773
$199,900
14.53 Acres

Coming Soon to Realtor.ca
Dark Lake
$275,000
1.77 Acres

Gooderham Lake
MLS X12134997
$219,000
6.82 Acres

Redstone Lake
MLS X12220289
$445,000
18.4 Acres

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